



GAIL FARBER, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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February 2, 2011

IN REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO FILE: **WM-7  
A3537**

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Gail Farber *Gail Farber*  
Director of Public Works

### **BOARD MOTION OF JANUARY 11, 2011, AGENDA ITEM NO. 31-A INCORPORATING LOW-IMPACT DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES INTO THE ROAD AND FLOOD DESIGN AND MAINTENANCE MANUALS**

On January 11, 2011, your Board approved a motion by Mayor Michael D. Antonovich, copy attached, instructing the Directors of Regional Planning and Public Works to report back on the use of rooftop catchment systems as a method of collecting stormwater for reuse and reducing potential pollutants from entering the storm drain systems (Items 1-4).

The motion was amended by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky to also instruct the Director of Public Works to report back on the progress made in incorporating low-impact development (LID) principles into the Department's Road and Flood Design and Maintenance Manuals as well as how these standards compare to those private property LID standards adopted by your Board in November 2008 (Item 5). Public Works' response to Mayor Antonovich's motion will be provided in a separate report.

#### **5. Progress made in incorporating LID principles into the Department's Road and Flood Design and Maintenance Manuals as well as how these standards compare to those private property LID standards adopted by your Board in November 2008.**

I am pleased to report that the Department of Public Works (Public Works) has drafted the Green Infrastructure Guidelines (Guidelines), which establish a goal of mitigating 30 percent of the runoff generated from a 3/4-inch storm event. These Guidelines apply to new construction and reconstruction of road and flood projects. The Guidelines identify design parameters and maintenance considerations for several potential LID applications, such as porous pavements, vegetated swales, bioretention areas, filter strips, and stormwater storage areas. In addition, the Guidelines provide examples of desirable sustainable practices that can be

considered for Public Works projects, such as pavement recycling, composting, and drought-tolerant landscaping.

The Guidelines are to be used in planning or designing road and flood infrastructure projects. Department approval of the Guidelines is expected by March 2011. However, Public Works has already proactively begun to integrate LID features in projects. Some examples are:

- Stormwater infiltration basins as part of the Sun Valley Park Project (completed);
- LID adaptation of Tujunga Wash (some completed and additional construction to begin 2011);
- Bioswales along Los Angeles River Headwater in Canoga Park (scheduled for construction in 2012);
- Stormwater infiltration at Strathern Pit in Sun Valley (scheduled for construction in 2014);
- Bioswales along Rosemead Boulevard and Avocado Heights (scheduled for completion in November 2011 and early 2013, respectively);
- Bioretention basins along Paramount Boulevard (completed);
- Median infiltration in Tyler Avenue (completed);
- Permeable shoulders along Covina Hills Road and Sacramento Street (completed); and
- Several other landscaping projects that include bioswales and other LID features alongside road projects.

The County LID Ordinance requires that developers of commercial properties and residential properties of five or more units infiltrate or store 100 percent of the excess runoff that would normally be treated for water-quality purposes resulting from the development. Residential developments consisting of four or fewer units were required to implement two LID Best Management Practice alternatives found in Public Works LID Standards Manual.

Each Supervisor  
February 2, 2011  
Page 3

The Guidelines seek to reduce runoff from road and flood infrastructure projects similarly to the County LID Ordinance for commercial and residential properties of five or more units. However, options for implementing LID features on development projects are greater than those for infrastructure projects alone primarily because County road and flood projects typically have limited right of way to use for the purposes of infiltration or storage. Therefore, in some cases County projects capture less runoff than private development. Road projects, in particular, often have only the median and parkway to utilize for LID purposes. County projects and private developments alike may encounter other technically infeasible situations, such as high groundwater and clay soils, in which case infiltration is not desirable.

If you have any questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Gary Hildebrand at (626) 458-4300 or ghildeb@dpw.lacounty.gov.

BH:sw

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Attach.

cc: Chief Executive Office (Rita Robinson)  
County Counsel  
Executive Office  
Regional Planning



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES HELD IN ROOM 381B  
OF THE KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012**

**Tuesday, January 11, 2011**

**9:30 AM**

**31-A.** Recommendation as submitted by Supervisor Antonovich: Direct the Director of Planning in collaboration with the Director of Public Works to report back to the Board within 21 days on the following:

1. Findings on current regulations and incentives for the installation of rooftop runoff catchment systems for residential and commercial buildings in unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County;
2. How rooftop runoff catchment systems can supplement LEED project certification;
3. Progress of the County's Low-Impact Development (LID) plan and success stories; and
4. What percentage of the Los Angeles River's stormwater runoff is recycled and how can this percentage be increased. (11-0355)

**Arnold Sachs addressed the Board.**

**Supervisor Yaroslavsky made a suggestion to amend Supervisor Antonovich's motion to instruct the Director of Public Works to report back in 21 days regarding the progress they have made in incorporating Low-Impact Development (LID) principles into their Road and Flood Design and Maintenance Manuals, as well as how these standards compare to the LID standards contained in the 2008 LID ordinance regulating private development. Supervisor Antonovich accepted Supervisor Yaroslavsky's amendment.**

**After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, this item was approved as amended by Supervisor Yaroslavsky.**

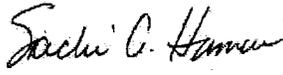
**Ayes:** 4 - Supervisor Molina, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas,  
Supervisor Knabe and Supervisor Antonovich

**Absent:** 1 - Supervisor Yaroslavsky

**Attachments:** [Motion by Supervisor Antonovich](#)  
[Motion by Supervisor Yaroslavsky](#)  
[Report](#)  
[Video](#)  
[Audio](#)

The foregoing is a fair statement of the proceedings of the regular meeting held January 11, 2011, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and ex officio the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts, agencies and authorities for which said Board so acts.

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer  
Executive Officer-Clerk  
of the Board of Supervisors

By 

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Sachi A. Hamai  
Executive Officer